NPS Form 10-900 (January 1992) Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

1. Name of Property

1060

OCT 01 2008 NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1	
historic name Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine, House	
other names/site number	
other names/site number	
2. Location	
street & number 1108 East Fourth Street	N/A not for publication
city or town Marshfield	N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Wood code	141 zip code 54449
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
Signature of certifying official/Title Date State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin	art 60. In my opinion, the property
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	
Signature of commenting official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	

Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine	e, House	Wood	Wisconsin
Name of Property		County and State	
4. National Park Service (
I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. removed from the National Register other, (explain:)	Signature of the	ick Andlus	Date of Action
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply) X private public-local public-State public-Federal	Category of Property (Check only one box) X building(s) district structure site object	1 1 Bu si st	listed resources contributing aildings tes ructures ojects
Name of related multiple prope (Enter "N/A" if property not part listing. N/A		Number of contributing resistance is previously listed in the	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruction Domestic/Single Dwelling	ons)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instruction Domestic/Single Dwelling	is)
7. Description			
Architectural Classification		Materials	
(Enter categories from instruction	ons)	(Enter categories from instruction	ns)
Colonial Revival	7-10-	Foundation stone walls wood	
		roof asphalt other brick	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

(Marl	icable National Register Criteria k "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria fying the property for the National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture
_ A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Industry
<u>X</u> B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
хс	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	Period of Significance
<u> </u>	of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses	1914-1960
	high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	
_ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	Significant Dates
_	information important in prehistory or history.	1914
	ria Considerations ("x" in all the boxes that apply.)	
Prope	erty is:	Significant Person
_ A	owned by a religious institution or	(Complete if Criterion B is marked)
	used for religious purposes.	Roddis, Hamilton
_B	removed from its original location.	
_ C	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
_ D	a cemetery.	N/A
_ E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
_ F	a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder
<u>X</u> G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	Krasin, Gus A.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

			Catherine,	House			Wo			Wisconsin
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. M	ajor B	ibliogra	phic Re	ferences						
Cite 1	the book	s, articles	, and other	sources used	l in preparing thi	is form on	one or mo	ore continuation s	heets.)	
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Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title

Augusta Roddis

organization

1108 East Fourth Street

date

8/31/2007

street&number

telephone

715-384-9302

city or town

Marshfield

state WI

zip code

54449

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine, House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

The Hamilton and Catherine Roddis house, located at 1108 East Fourth Street, was built in 1914. It is an example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. As in their Georgian and Adam revival counterparts, the principal areas of elaboration are entrances, cornices and windows. The building is set back 118 feet from the sidewalk, which parallels East Fourth Street. The corner lot is adjacent to Marshfield Middle School. Large trees grow at the front and side of the house. A large garden area, fruit trees and grapevines are located behind the house and are part of its historic setting. A concrete driveway enters the property from Fourth Street, paralleling the southeast side of the house. The driveway travels through the porte-cochere arriving at a contemporary four-car hipped roof garage located southeast of the house. A curved walk approaches the portico of the main entrance. When viewing the Roddis house from Fourth Street, the classical details balance the grand scale of the house.

DESCRIPTION

The symmetrical, side-gambrel house is three stories in height and is parallel to East Fourth Street. The northeast facing main body of the house is 50 feet in length. The length of the house is extended to 75 feet with the inclusion of the one story porte-cochere wing on the southeast edge of the house and the one story sun porch wing on the northwest edge of the house. The increased length balances the height of the building.

The building rests on a stone foundation, which rises forty inches above the ground. The stone base is capped with a 9½" wide board, which is topped by a 4" wide board, and is set at a sloping angle. The angled board sheds water that runs down the side of the house, directing it away from the foundation. Both boards continue around the entire lower body of the house delineating the base of the first floor and separating the clapboard siding from the stone base. The stone base contains seven window openings. The openings are singly placed, paired and even appear in a triple group under the southwest facing dining room windows. Each window is divided into four vertical lights.

A deep overhanging eave, which is edged with classical cornice molding, projects from the main body of the house at the base of the roof. The eave continues across the gambrel ends delineating the base of the third floor.

A fourteen-foot wide, central two-story entry bay projects thirty inches from the main body of the house. The bay is fronted by a flat roofed portico, which extends four feet from the wall of the projecting bay. The unadorned portico entablature is supported by two Tuscan columns at the forward

¹ Virginia & Lee McAlester, <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u> (New York: Knopf, 1997).

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northeast edge of the porch area and two engaged Tuscan columns at the rear. The engaged columns are applied to the wall of the projecting entry bay. The glass entry door is divided into eight lights at the top third and two vertical lights in the bottom two thirds. Two side lights with the same divisions are located to either side of the door. A classical cornice tops the door and side lights and a simple molding surrounds the unit creating a single architectural element. A 30" railing (balustrade) edges the flat portico roof. The railing is a variant of the Chinese Chippendale designs popular on Early Classical Revival and Neoclassical houses. This example consists of a central square with radiating pieces set between verticals. The same railing also appears between the Tuscan columns and engaged Tuscan columns on the southeast and northwest edges of the first floor entry porch. The porch is concrete and is accessed by two stairs. Wrought iron railings (added later) line the east and west edges of the steps.

The second floor of the projecting entry bay has a grouping of three double hung windows. Each window is topped with a transom. The upper light of each window and the transoms are divided into eight lights. A simple classical molding surrounds the units creating one architectural element. This feature is present on all window groupings. The very top of the two-story projecting entry bay has a flat roof, which is balustraded on three sides.

The first and second floor windows of the northeast facing façade are balanced. One pair of double hung windows appears equal distance to the east and to the west of the two-story projecting bay on both the first and second floor. The upper light of each window is divided into eight lights.

The third floor of the northeast facing façade is encompassed within the massive gambrel roof. The roof peaks at the ridgeline and then falls away in a broad, low slope, breaks horizontally and then changes to a steeper pitch. The third floor roof contains three evenly spaced, pedimented dormers. The dormers have exaggerated pediments with wide eaves. All are heavily corniced and have recessed tympanums. The center dormer has paired doors, which open to a very narrow porch. The upper one third of each door light is divided into four lights. The bottom two thirds of each door light is divided into two vertical lights. The dormers located to the east and to the west of the center dormer contain a single, eight over one, double hung window. Three sided balustrades appear at the base of the east and west roof dormers. The central roof dormer rests behind the small balustraded third floor porch, which is located on top of the flat roof of the projecting entry bay.

The southeast facing porte-cochere wing has two ell shaped brick piers with limestone caps. One is located at the northeast corner and one is located at the southeast corner of the east edge of the porte-

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cochere. The piers support three Tuscan columns atop each pier. On the main body of the house are two brick piers with limestone caps, which support a single engaged Tuscan column. The columns support an unadorned entablature. The flat porte-cochere roof supports a railing matching that of the front elevation.

The northwest facing sun porch wing has two ell shaped brick piers with limestone caps. One is located at the northwest corner and one is located at the southwest corner of the sun porch. The piers support three Tuscan columns atop each pier. On the main body of the house are two brick piers with limestone caps, which support a single engaged Tuscan column. A narrow door is located at each side of the exterior chimney, which is placed on the wall of the main body of the house. An unadorned entablature rests upon the columns. The flat roof supports a railing matching that of the front elevation. The sun porch floor rests atop the brick piers. A matching railing also encloses the three sides of the sun porch (behind or to the interior of the Tuscan columns). Large screen panels enclose the sun porch. The screens are attached at the bottom of the porch entablature and to the porch floor edge. The screen panels are original to the construction of the house as they appear on a photo from the spring of 1915. The area below the sun porch wing is open.

The northwest facing gambrel end is three stories in height. The first floor has a single double hung window appearing on the main wall of the house at each side of the sun porch. An exterior brick faced chimney is located on the main body of the house. The chimney pierces the second floor eave. The chimney then narrows and continues upward, piercing the eave of the gambrel roof. The shaft of the chimney retains its original cornice crowning.

The second floor of the northwest facing gambrel end has a narrow doorway directly north of the chimney. To the north of this window is a single double hung window. On the wall of the second floor to the south of the chimney is a single double hung window positioned the same distance from the edge of the building as the north double hung window. The windows are eight over one and have a simple framing surround.

Within the third floor gambrel end and flanking the chimney stack are single, eight over one double hung windows. The windows have simple surrounds. The surface of the gable end is shingled.

The southeast facing first floor has an entry door located within the porte-cochere. Single double hung windows are located at each side of the engaged Tuscan columns. Paired double hung windows appear at the south end of the first floor. All windows are eight over one and have simple surrounds.

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Paired double hung windows are placed at the south end of the second floor. Two additional double hung windows are evenly spaced at each side of a porch door, which accesses the porch over the portecochere. The windows repeat the same treatment as found elsewhere on the house.

The third floor within the gambrel end has two double hung windows at each side of a smaller bathroom window. The windows are of the same treatment as the others of the house. The surface of the gable end is shingled. A single interior chimney rises from the roof above the gable end. The top of the chimney retains its original cornice crowning.

The southwest facing elevation is less formal and is asymmetrical. The east one third of the south facing elevation has a two story flat roofed wing with wide eaves. The wing projects seven feet from the main body of the house. An entry door to the stairway, which is the entry to the kitchen, is located at the east edge of the projecting base. A small window appears over the enclosed basement entry. The second floor of the projecting wing has an enclosed sleeping porch, which has a band of five double hung windows appearing on the south facing wall. A pair of double hung windows appears on the west facing wall. The windows have the same treatment as on the primary elevations. A balustrade extends on three sides of the flat roof of the two story projecting wing.

Directly west of the two story projecting bay, encompassing the center one third of the southwest facing elevation, is a one-story dining room projection that extends an additional four feet from the edge of the two story bay. The dining room bay has a band of three double hung windows on the south facing elevation and a pair of double hung windows on the west facing elevation. The windows are eight over one.

The top of the one story bay is flat. A narrow hip roof edges three sides of the porch floor. A door on the second floor of the main body of the house accesses the porch. Eight over one, double hung windows are located to each side of the door. The elaborated railing found on the principal elevations is repeated on this the porch.

The remaining west portion of the southwest facing elevation has a paired, eight over one double hung window unit on both the first and second floor.

The gambrel roof of the south facing elevation has three evenly spaced pedimented roof dormers identical to the north facing roof dormers. The roof dormers have exaggerated classical pediments with wide eaves. All are heavily corniced and have recessed tympanums. The west and center dormers have a single eight over one double hung window. The east roof dormer contains a door, which accesses the porch on top of the two story projecting wing. Three sided, simple balustrades

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appear below the west and center roof dormers. The east roof dormer resides behind the balustrade of the porch of the two story wing.

The house is clad in white clapboard. The window cornices and surrounds, portico, porte-cochere, and sun porch columns, and classical details are painted white. Green asphalt shingles cover the gambrel roof and the cheeks of the roof dormers. Historic photos indicate that these latter surfaces were originally covered with wood shingles.

INTERIOR

The interior of the house has been handsomely and artfully detailed and exemplifies the classical elegance of the Colonial Revival style. Much of the interior woodwork and paneling was manufactured by the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company. The house became a showcase for Roddis products. One of the outstanding features of the house is the deeply coffered ceilings throughout the first floor. The library and living room coffered ceilings are rectangular and extend from wall to wall. The dining room, great hall and foyer coffered ceilings have smaller rectangular boxes that create a grid-like pattern.

The entry vestibule is contained within the northeast facing projecting entry bay. Colorful ceramic tile with a Greek Key border covers the floor of the vestibule, which is lower than the main body of the house. Narrow closets located at each side of the entry stairway open on to the vestibule floor. The staircase ascends upward to a fifteen light door, which is flanked on each side by a five light side light. This door grouping provides entry to the great hall. The ceilings of the great hall, vestibule, entry stairway, and main staircase are deeply coffered. The walls of the vestibule, entry stairway, great hall and main staircase have paneled wainscoting. The formal dining room, living room, telephone room, and a hallway, which leads to the library and kitchen, are entered from the great hall. The east wall of the great hall has the main staircase ascending to the second floor. The fluted staircase newel post is rectangular. The balustrades have simple square lines. The balustrade begins at the banister lip and continues to the northeast wall ending in a pilaster with inset ridges. The balustrade begins once again at the top of the first staircase and continues to the second floor where it makes a 90 degree turn ending at the southeast wall of the upper hall.

Fifteen light French doors enter the formal dining room from both the great hall and from the living room. The dining room walls have paneled wainscoting, which encircles the entire room. The wainscoting is capped with a narrow shelf, which is supported by brackets. The ceiling is deeply coffered with rectangular boxes, which create a grid-like pattern. Rare imported Circassian walnut from Russia is used in the wainscoting, coffered ceiling and the dining room furniture.²

² Marshfield News-Herald, June 20, 1986.

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The living room is entered through ten light French doors, which have an additional stationary ten light doors located at either side. A fireplace is centered on the northwest wall. Doors which access the sun porch are located at either side of the fireplace. The fireplace mantel and surround is carved wood, which has been painted with heavy enamel paint giving the impression that it was crafted from marble. The mantel is supported on brackets. Garland swags arch across the front of the mantle frieze. Moldings separate the walls of the living room into various rectangular areas. The coffered ceilings in the living room are rectangular and extend from wall to wall.

A small private telephone room, located across from the main staircase, is entered through a ten light door. A shelf on the southwest wall supports the telephone.

The library is entered from a door located on a small hallway. The hallway leads to a stairway, which descends to an entry door located under the porte-cochere. Built in leaded glass book cases are located on the west and north walls. The coffered ceiling in the library has long rectangular deep insets, which extend from wall to wall.

The kitchen has an original built in china cabinet, as well as a portion of the original pantry, which is adjacent to the dining room doorway. The remainder of the kitchen has been remodeled over time. An enclosed maid's staircase accesses the second floor from the kitchen.

The landing of the main staircase has a closet located on the northwest wall. Two of the lights of the three window grouping of the two story projecting entry bay light the landing. The third window from the grouping lights the closet.

The second floor contains five bedrooms and two full bathrooms. A built in linen cabinet is located northwest of the main staircase. Access is gained to the porches of the sun porch wing, south facing dining porch wing, and the porte-cochere wing from east, west and south facing bedrooms. A sleeping porch is entered from the southeast bedroom.

The house features the Roddis Company's signature flush door. Unlike standard production doors, the doors of the Roddis house consist of rectangular panels inlaid with three bands of ebony and basswood. Moldings separate the walls of the two west facing bedrooms into various rectangular areas.

The third floor is accessed by an enclosed stairwell located directly southeast of the main staircase. Upon reaching the third floor hall, a 25 by 28 foot ballroom is located to the northwest of the stairwell.

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Two bedrooms, a storage room and one bathroom are located to the southeast of the stairwell. A bell is mounted on the upper hall wall indicating these bedrooms were servants' quarters.

The ballroom is entered through fifteen light French doors. Four of the six roof dormers are located within the ballroom and provide an abundance of natural light. The ceilings throughout the third floor are flat with the outer edge sloping to the wall. A built in cabinet (6' X 5'6") is located on the south wall of the ballroom. Four narrow door closets are evenly spaced, one at either side of the northeast and southwest dormers. The closet doors are flat and unadorned except for a thin inset rectangle of tricolored inlayed wood. French doors within the center north facing roof dormer open out to a small porch atop the projecting main entry bay.

The doors and windows throughout the house are topped with simple cornices and are surrounded with classical moldings. The baseboards are nine inches in height. The ceiling on the first floor is ten feet in height. The ceilings of the second and third floor are nine feet in height. Hardwood floors are found throughout the house.

Access to the basement area was not attained.

GARAGE (NC)

A four car, hipped roof garage is located at the rear of the house directly in line with the porte-cochere. Prior to 1992, a garage which mirrored the house in design and materials was located 75 feet south of the house.³ The current garage was constructed after the original garage was removed. The replacement garage is sided with white clapboard and shingled with green asphalt shingles to mirror the colors of the house.

ALTERATIONS

The Hamilton and Catherine Roddis house has suffered little if any alteration since its construction in 1914. The property is in good condition and exhibits a remarkable degree of historic integrity, both inside and out. The only changes that have occurred to house involve kitchen remodeling and modest bathroom updates.

³ Linda Brazeau, Research Associate, Determination of Eligibility form (Milwaukee, Wis.: GLARC, Inc., March 1992).

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The Roddis House is significant at the local level both as a good and intact example of the Dutch Colonial style of architecture (criterion C) and as the home of local industrialist Hamilton Roddis (criterion B). The period of significance begins with the construction of the house for the Roddis family in 1914 and ends with Hamilton Roddis' death in 1960. This was his home during the entire period of significance. It was where he and his wife entertained and the house itself showcased many of the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company's products.

ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND

America celebrated a century of nationhood at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.⁴ This exposition reawakened Americans' interest in their heritage and cultivated an interest in historic Colonial America. Americans reflected upon their patriotism as well as their increased desire for simplification. They were reacting to the Industrial Revolution and were reexamining their pre-Industrial Revolution past. Architecturally they were moving away from the excesses of the Queen Anne and searching for classical simplicity, which the Colonial Revival style of architecture would offer.

In 1877 architects McKim, Mead, White and Bigelow took a widely publicized tour through New England to study, sketch and create measured drawings of remaining Georgian and Adam buildings. The result of this tour was the birth of Colonial Revival architecture, whose popularity and designs would be utilized from 1880 to well into the 1950s. Architects began to incorporate architectural elements from the Georgian and Federal styles (and to a lesser degree from Dutch Colonial prototypes) into their designs. Secondary influences were derived from post medieval English and Dutch Colonial prototypes. Colonial Revival architecture is most often found in the construction of bank buildings, churches, libraries, and houses.

⁴ Officially known as the "International Exhibition of Arts, Manufactures and Products of the Soil and Mine," the Centennial Exhibition, the first major World's Fair to be held in the United States, opened on May 10, 1876 on a 285-acre tract of Fairmount Park overlooking the Schuylkill River.

⁵ Barbara Wyatt, ed., <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>, Vol. 2 (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986).

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

As in their Georgian and Adam predecessors, the principle areas of elaboration in Colonial Revival houses are entrances, cornices and windows. Front facades display symmetry, formal detailing and the proportions of their forbearers. However, they were rarely historically correct copies but instead are the architect's interpretations of the style. Classical details were often displayed in exaggerated proportions. In addition to the popular side-gabled Georgian styles, Dutch gambrel style and hiproofed Federals were also embraced by nostalgic Americans.

The Dutch Colonial Revival style is found primarily in residential buildings and represents about ten percent of the existing Colonial Revival houses. Both front-facing gambrel roof and side-facing gambrel roof examples (as in the Roddis house) were built. Entablatures of entry porticos were often supported by columns. Small sun porch wings were placed at one end. Multiple paned windows were symmetrically arranged in adjacent pairs, triples or ribbons and were treated as a single architectural element.

The signature of the Dutch Colonial Revival style is the gambrel roof. The lesser pitch of the upper slope of the gambrel facilitates higher ceilings on the inner roof elevation. Side-facing gambrel versions usually exhibit roof dormers. The roof dormers light the interior. The increase of natural light coupled with the overall height of the inner roof elevation enable the area within the gambrel roof to be readily used as living space.

HISTORY OF MARSHFIELD

Marshfield was named after John J. Marshfield of Haverhill, Massachusetts, who arrived at the location of the future community in the 1840s. The United States was granting land in Wisconsin for the improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. The hope was to create a waterway capable of steamboat navigation between Green Bay and the Mississippi River. The Fox & Wisconsin Improvement Company was awarded 700,000 acres of land under the condition that the waterway be completed by 1866. When the contract was unfulfilled in the agreed timeframe, a new company was formed called the Green Bay & Mississippi Improvement Company. Land from the original grant was divided among the new incorporators. Samuel Marsh and John Magee, who were participants in the Green Bay & Mississippi Improvement Company, sold a small tract of this land to Louis and Frank Rivers in 1868.

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

In 1871 the destiny of Marshfield was forever established by the Wisconsin Central Railroad. Construction of a railroad between Portage and Lake Superior was about to begin. Marshfield may have lacked the advantage of being located on a river, but it did have the geographical advantage of being midway between Chicago and Minneapolis. Marshfield was located halfway between Stevens Point and Colby, a site that lent itself to the location of a supply depot. At the request of the Wisconsin Central Railroad, Louis and Frank River built a log building which functioned as a supply depot, hotel, store, tavern, and post office. The first train arrived on July 4, 1872. The land in the proximity of Marshfield was flat and heavily forested. This type of terrain lessened the cost of constructing the rail line. The railroad soon realized that there was an opportunity to generate profit from the abundant timber resources located in the Marshfield area. The shipping of timber and the shipping of products generated from timber would create a sizable profit.

Marshfield's development was definitely hastened by the advantage it was given by the railroad. Trains brought migrants and entrepreneurs who took advantage of the growing community as well as the dense forests that surrounded it. The new arrivals started opening businesses and building houses. The River brothers and David Vaughn opened a lumber company, which immediately utilized the available train service to haul logs to Stevens Point.

J.P. Buck and J.J. Marsh put forth plans for the development of Marshfield. Survey work began in December of 1874 and continued to April of 1875. Included within the overall design for Marshfield was a vision for parks, public school buildings, streets, and blocks for commercial and residential development.⁶ N. M. Edwards was the surveyor who developed the grid plan. He located the railroad corridor of the Wisconsin Central Railroad as Marshfield's principal east-west axis. Central Avenue bisected the railroad corridor as Marshfield's principal north-south axis. At the time of the survey, Marshfield was nothing more that a small clearing along the tracks.

William Upham arrived in Marshfield in 1878, at the age of 35. William and his brother Charles Upham, with monies borrowed from the Upham family, organized Marshfield as a central shipping

⁶ The history of Marshfield is drawn form the following sources: The History of Wood County, compiled by George O. Jones and Norman S. McVean (Minneapolis: H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1923); Timothy Heggland, City of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin: Intensive Survey Report, ([Marshfield, Wis.?; Marshfield Historic Preservation Committee?], 2005); Donald H. Schnitzler, The Marshfield Story: 1872 – 1997, Vol. 1 (Amherst, Wisconsin: Palmer Publications, 1997).

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

and receiving location. Raw materials were brought to Marshfield by train and then processed into finished products. The finished products were then shipped to the markets of the south and the Lake Superior area. Several businesses were instituted by the Upham family, with the most important being a saw mill (1878). The Upham saw mill would become the largest employer in Marshfield (that is until the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company overtook this honor in 1927). Other businesses begun by the Uphams were: general store (1878), planning mill (1879), furniture factory (1882), and flour and feed mill (1885). Marshfield was developing into an important Wisconsin industrial community as was illustrated in the erection of six buildings during one week in 1882.

The City of Marshfield was incorporated in 1883 and shortly thereafter held its first city election. One of the first public actions to occur after the election was the organization of a fire department. Marshfield had grown to two thousand citizens by 1883. Those numbers would expand to two thousand five hundred by 1885.

On one eventful day, June 27, 1887, the city of Marshfield was nearly wiped from the map. In the early morning hours, fire was discovered in the Upham lumber yards. The fire quickly spread to piles of logs that were located along the tracks. It had been very dry for weeks and it was the height of the milling season. Over seventeen million board feet of lumber were located alongside the tracks. Strong westerly winds fanned the fire, hampering all efforts to fight the flames. Before the end of the day 250 buildings were destroyed. The loss of property in Marshfield on that infamous day was over one million dollars. Many of the 250 destroyed buildings were not insured.

The day after the fire was pivotal to the survival of Marshfield. On that day, William Upham, the city's principal employer, declared that he was going to rebuild. Perhaps Upham, then mayor, felt a certain responsibility to the city's three thousand five hundred residents, many of whom were employed within his enterprises. Moreover, Upham was a smart businessman. He recognized the significance of Marshfield's strategic location. He knew that the railroad would be the lifeline for Marshfield and would enable it to rise from the ashes. He also realized that through that re-building process there was money to be made. Quickly, the surrounding communities of Stevens Point, Spencer and Wisconsin Rapids sent trains filled with food and clothing. Help poured in from around the state and the upper Midwest. As building materials began to arrive by rail, commercial and residential buildings began to emerge from the rubble. Six months after the fire, the city was almost The History of Wood County, compiled by George O. Jones and Norman S. McVean (Minneapolis: H.C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1923).

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rebuilt. History has recorded William Upham as the pilot, the guiding hand, who through example led the citizens of Marshfield back from the terrible fire.

In 1890, the tracks of a second railroad were laid through the city by the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Ohio Railroad. This created an additional flow of freight to and from the city. Also in 1890 St. Joseph's Hospital was built in the far northwest part of the city (now known as the Marshfield Clinic Complex). The population of Marshfield had grown to four thousand people. As the surrounding forests began to disappear and the stumps were removed, fertile land emerged and agriculture became increasingly important to the local economy.

In 1904, seven thousand people resided in Marshfield. Marshfield, however, lacked one thing. That was the advantage of being the county seat. In 1907 local leaders moved to separate Marshfield and the surrounding area from Wood County and create a new county, Rivers County, whereby Marshfield would be the county seat. The scheme failed.

William Henry Roddis arrived in Marshfield from Milwaukee in 1894. Roddis purchased a five thousand dollar interest in and assumed the management of the Hatteberg Veneer Company. Axel K. Hatteberg had invented an improved veneer cutter, which was capable of handling a log ten feet long and four feet in diameter. Along with his improved veneer dryer process, Hatteberg boasted that veneer could be produced and on the market inside of 24 hours.

In April of 1897, the Hatteberg company was destroyed by fire. The fire motivated Hatteberg to sell his remaining interest to Roddis, who was determined to rebuild. On June 23, 1897 just two months after the fire, the company re-opened under its new name, Roddis Veneer Company. By 1899 the Roddis Company was generating \$30,000 in gross business. The expansion of the furniture industry in Marshfield yield increased business for Roddis. The Roddis Company manufactured specialty panels for folding beds, desks, pianos, and organs. They also produced cheese boxes. William Roddis recognized the abundance of fine hardwood in the area and utilized this resource to produce plywood products and flush doors (a flat slab door that replaced panel doors). Roddis doors were used in the construction of the Immigration Center on Ellis Island and in the Washington State governor's mansion.

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

Then in 1903, the name of the company was changed once again to Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company. Lumber mills were established in Marshfield and Park Falls. These mills began to utilize logs that were not of a high enough quality for veneer. Fire struck again in 1907 destroying the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company in Marshfield, with the Park Falls mill burning two weeks later. Both plants were quickly rebuilt. Perhaps in appreciation of his steadfast support of Marshfield, William Henry Roddis was elected mayor in 1907.

HAMILTON RODDIS

The Hamilton and Catherine Roddis house is also significant under criterion B. Hamilton Roddis was an important Marshfield industrial and civic leader whose impact was felt for more than sixty years. As secretary and president of the multi-million dollar Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company, he guided the growth of his company which in turn enhanced the growth and prosperity of Marshfield Wisconsin.

Hamilton Roddis was born in Milwaukee on June 26, 1875. He received a law degree from the University of Wisconsin in the fall of 1899 and was admitted to the bar that same year. However, he never practiced law. At the request of his father William, Hamilton assumed the role of secretary treasurer of the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company in 1900.

On July 7, 1908, Hamilton was united in marriage to Catherine S. Prindle. Twins girls, Sara Frances and Mary Isabella, arrived on May 14, 1909 and Catherine Prindle was born on April 14, 1911. Hamilton and Catherine's expanding family, as well as the success of the family's industries, facilitated the construction of a new home.

The July 8th 1914 issue of the <u>Marshfield Times</u> touted that twenty new homes worth more than \$125,000 were under construction in Marshfield. One of those homes was the Hamilton Roddis house. According to family members, Hamilton Roddis had great influence in planning and designing the house. This was especially expressed with the use of Roddis Lumber and Veneer's flush doors and wood products. Roddis worked in tandem with Marshfield architect Gus A. Krasin, who facilitated the architectural design.

Gus A. Krasin was born in 1885 in Volynia, Russia. He was seven years old when his family immigrated to the United States. Krasin acquired his knowledge of architecture from correspondence

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courses. In 1907 he formed a partnership with his brother Jacob establishing the firm of the Krasin Brothers building contractors in Tigerton, Wisconsin. In 1909 the brothers moved their business to Marshfield, Gus Krasin was well known throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Arkansas for the school, church and commercial buildings that he designed. Within Marshfield he is credited with the design of the Hotel Charles, the Weber building, the Weinbrenner Shoe Factory, Marshfield Armory and Community building, the Dairyland Broadcasting Co. building, and his house located at 808 S. Oak Ave. Gus Krasin actively designed and built homes and commercial buildings until his sudden death in 1958.8

Marshfield was now a flourishing city of seven thousand people. Many improvements and additions were also being made to existing residential properties. The city was adding sidewalks, curbs and concrete gutters as well as new sewer, water and electric connections to support the new construction. Several businesses were also enlarging their buildings to keep pace with heightened business prospects. The high school addition was progressing and a new parsonage for Immanuel Lutheran Church was under construction.

The twelve room Hamilton Roddis house built on East Fourth Street cost in excess of \$13,000.10 William Kalshed installed the plumbing and heating. 11 The building location was adjacent to his father William's property. Both of the Roddis houses were three story representations of the Dutch Colonial Revival style (the William Roddis house was destroyed by fire in 1969).

Hamilton and Catherine's family continued to grow with the arrival of Augusta on May 25, 1916 and William on November 8, 1917. The Roddis family has maintained continuous ninety-three year occupancy of the home as daughter Augusta still resides in the residence.

With the onset of the Great Depression, Hamilton was quick to recognize that even in a depression there were always people who would want and could afford high grade custom work. The Roddis Lumber & Veneer Company had a distinct advantage over other lumber companies who only offered

⁸ Gus A. Krasin obituary, Marshfield News-Herald, December 12, 1958.

Marshfield Times, July 8, 1914.

Marshfield Herald, May 16, 1914.

Marshfield Herald, April 25, 1914.

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

stock sizes of lumber and plywood. The Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company continued to maintain their status as the largest industry and employer in Marshfield.¹²

Hamilton Roddis was a kind man and a caring employer. Prior to World War I he arranged for many of his employees to purchase homes on land contracts with no down payments. These loans were guaranteed by the Roddis Company. As soon as the employee had built up enough equity in their homes, the banks would take over their mortgage.

Hamilton Roddis served as a Marshfield alderman for the Fourth Ward prior to the First World War, as well as sitting on the Executive Board of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Marshfield's manufacturing capability continued to expand and the community continued its growth. In 1925 the population stood at approximately eight thousand five hundred people.

During both world wars the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company made materials for the war effort. During World War I, the company made plywood not only for the United States but also for the French and Italian governments. Women were employed at Roddis for the first time during World War I.

During World War II the company produced marine interior woodwork for Liberty and Victory ships. They also produced plywood for bulkheads, doors and frames. An important distinction that was earned by the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company was that the firm supplied one half of the wood products required by the United States and its allies during World War II. At least 90% of the production of the Marshfield plant during World War II was devoted to the war effort.

One of the most fascinating endeavors of the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company during World War II was supplying yellow birch veneer to Britain for use in the construction of more than six thousand De Havilland Mosquito Bombers. The veneer for the bomber was so thin that women in the Roddis plant ironed the sheets of plywood. Because the veneer was so thin, it could not be dried by mechanical means, but rather hung on wires to air dry. The Mosquito Bomber was constructed entirely

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¹² Donald Schnitzler, The Marshfield Story, Window to Our Past, Vol. 2. (Eagle River: Hahn Printing, 2000).

¹³ Donald H. Schnitzler, The Marshfield Story 1872 – 1997, Vol. 1 (Amherst, Wisconsin: Palmer Publications, 1997).

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

of wood. Two Rolls-Royce Merlin engines propelled the plane to speeds in excess of 400 mph. The Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company also produced plywood for Howard Hughes' HK-1 Flying Boat known as the Spruce Goose.

Hamilton Roddis wrote letters to more than 200 servicemen during the duration of the war. One hundred of them continued ongoing correspondence with the industrialist. Roddis displayed the names of his employees that were involved in the defense of the United States in a downtown store window from 1943 through the end of the war.

Upon his father's death November 3, 1920, Hamilton assumed the office of president of the company. By this time the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company had overtaken the Upham Manufacturing Company as Marshfield's leading manufacturer. In 1921 Hamilton Roddis organized the Roddis Lumber & Veneer Company of Missouri, headquartered in Kansas City and in 1926 Hamilton Roddis organized a similar company in Chicago.

Hamilton Roddis died on March 27, 1960. Hamilton was the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company secretary for twenty years and president of the company for forty years. Upon his death, the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company employed 3500 people in the United States and Canada; 1000 of those employees worked in Marshfield. It owned twenty five warehouses, had two thousand shareholders and produced sales in excess of fifty nine million dollars. During his lifetime, Hamilton donated more than fifty million dollars to the Marshfield community to fund schools and churches. As an industrialist he had provided leadership for both his company and his community and he contributed in many ways to the development of Marshfield.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Hamilton and Catherine Roddis house is architecturally significant under Criterion C and significant under Criterion B for the contribution Hamilton Roddis made to the industrial history of Marshfield between 1900 and 1960. The period of significance has been extended beyond the fifty year requirement by two years. During the entire period of significance, Hamilton Roddis was orchestrating the expansion of his company and was participating in his many philanthropic endeavors. Hamilton Roddis continued occupancy of his home until his sudden death in 1960.

¹⁴ Marshfield News-Herald, March 28, 1960. Front page - Hamilton Roddis biographical obituary.

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

Architecturally, the Roddis house represents the Dutch Colonial Revival style, one of nine principal subgroups of Colonial Revival architecture. The nostalgia and patriotism that followed the country's centennial inspired American architects to reflect upon and reinterpret past architectural styles. What these architects brought forth was Colonial architecture on a larger scale, in which various historic colonial styles were combined with contemporary elements.

The Hamilton and Catherine Roddis house exhibits indicative characteristics of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. These elements are represented in the symmetrical façade accentuated with a central projecting entry portico. The portico exhibits classical Tuscan columns and plain entablatures. The window groupings are balanced with the windows having multiple panes. Many of the windows are arranged in pairs or in triple and five window bands. Several of the multiple window groupings are treated as a single architectural unit. The one story wings found in the porte-cochere wing and sun porch wing reflect Colonial Revival style and in the case of the Roddis house add to the symmetry and tend to ground the overall height of the three story building. The gambrel roof is perhaps the most distinguishing and defining characteristic of the Dutch Colonial Revival style and is represented in the Roddis house on a grand scale.

In addition, the interior of the house has been handsomely detailed, while retaining the classical elegance of the Colonial Revival style. Classical newels, balustrades, multi-paned doors, simple cornices and surrounds continue within the house. These classical details are combined with contemporary elements, which are found in the built in cabinets, cupboards, telephone room and sleeping porch.

When moving from room to room one cannot help but to look up and be captivated by the coffered ceilings of the first floor. By far the most outstanding feature of the house, the deep coffered ceilings, are arranged in either long rectangular boxes, which extend from one wall of the room to the opposite wall, or arranged in smaller rectangular boxes, which create a grid-like pattern. The rectangular designs found in the ceilings are repeated again in the paneled wainscoting found in the foyer, entry hall, main staircase, and dining room.

The Hamilton and Catherine Roddis house remains as a testament to the success of Hamilton Roddis and the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company. For over sixty five years the Roddis family provided employment for the Marshfield area and contributed to the growth and success of the City of Marshfield. Hamilton was much more than just an employer. He helped his employees achieve success in their lives by assisting with home purchases, providing employment through the Great Depression, and instilling a great pride with the role the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company had on the allied effort during World War I and World War II. As Hamilton Roddis' home during all of his

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

years of leadership of the company, the house has a direct relationship with the life of Hamilton Roddis.

The Hamilton and Catherine Roddis house is distinguished by the high degree of architectural integrity, found on the interior and exterior of the home. It is clearly the finest example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style in Marshfield and is worthy of listing in the State and National Register of Historic Places.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION G

The period of significance is extended to 1960 to reflect the entirety of Hamilton Roddis' association with the house. At the time of his death in March of 1960, Roddis was still the head of the company; he had assumed the presidency in 1920. A significant change in the company took place after Hamilton Roddis' death. In August of that year the company merged into Weyerhaeuser, marking an important transition in the history of this local industry. To end the period of significance at the 50-year mark (1958) would be arbitrary, as Roddis' death marked a transition in the ownership and management of the company.

Hamilton Roddis was recognized as a leader in the plywood and door industry and made improvements in the manufacture of both products. A history of the company states that he was considered a success within the industry "largely because of his abilities to adopt modern production and distribution methods that helped him pilot his firm through economic seas that wrecked other companies." The house is directly associated with all the years Roddis headed this important Marshfield firm.

¹⁵ http://www.marshfielddoorsystems.com/History_TL_1920.html. In 2000, Weyerhaeuser Company decided to sell the business. Marshfield Door Systems, Inc., a new company, purchased the Weyerhaeuser - Door Division. This successor company is located in Marshfield.

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Section 8 Page addendum

Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine, House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

The Roddis house is significant at the local level as an example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. The recently completed (2005) intensive survey report for Marshfield identified the Roddis house as the single example of the style that was individually eligible. Overall, the survey identified 16 intact examples of the style in the city. The examples are evenly divided between mostly between the wars era side gambrel variants and pre 1920s front gambreled examples. The front gambrel houses tend to be fairly modest houses with full width front porches. While the surveyed examples tend to have good to average architectural integrity, they lack the higher end features and the quality of design of the Roddis House. The mostly later side gambrel examples are fairly typical of house designs found throughout the county that were widely illustrated in the press and promoted in builders' catalogs. Again, while the overall integrity of these examples tends to be good, they lack the individual architectural distinction of the Roddis House. As a result, the Roddis House is the most architecturally distinctive extant example of the style in the city of Marshfield.

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Marshfield News-Herald, June 20, 1986.

Marshfield Times, July 8, 1914.

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Web Sites:

http://www.chipsandsawdust.com/articles/rodply-article.html

http://www.marshfield.uwc.edu.Top%20Nav%20Bar/news0607%20releases/Flyingtrees2.a 5/8/2007

http://www.marshfielddoors.com/History TL 1891.html

http://www.marshfielddoors.com/History TL 1945.html

http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary/index.asp?action=view&term-id=9262&term-

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine, House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

Parcel 1: Begging on Fourth (4th) Street, City of Marshfield, at the Northeasterly corner of Lot Two (2), Block "S", City of Marshfield, Wisconsin, according to the recorded plat, running thence Southerly on the Easterly line of said Lot 2, a distance of Seven Hundred and Six (706) feet; thence Westerly parallel to Fourth (4th) Street a distance of One Hundred Fifty (150) feet to the Southerly line of Fourth (4th) Street; thence along the Southerly line of Fourth (4th) Street a distance of One Hundred Fifty (150) feet to the place of beginning, containing two and 43/100 (2.43) acres, and commencing at a point on the Southerly side of Fourth Street in the City of Marshfield, which is a distance of 1,473 feet Easterly from the East side of Peach Street, running Easterly along the Southerly side of Fourth Street a distance of 12 feet, thence Southwesterly at right angles with Fourth Street a distance of 12 feet, thence Westerly and parallel with the Southerly side of Fourth Street a distance of 12 feet, thence Northeasterly to the point of beginning, Wood County, Wisconsin, said 12 foot parcel subject to the restriction contained in the Warranty Deed recorded in Vol. 298 of Deeds, page 551, Wood County Registry.

Tax Parcel ID# 33-00187A

Parcel 2: Lot Four (4) of Block One (1) of A.G. Felker's Subdivision of Outlot Three (3), Block "S", City of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin, subject to restrictions contained in Warranty Deed recorded in Vol. 297 of Deeds, page 551, Wood County Registry.

Tax Parcel ID# 33-00189

Parcel 3: Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), Five (5) and Six (6), of Block One (1), of A.G. Felker's Subdivision of Outlot (3), Block "S", City of Marshfield, Wisconsin. Tax Parcel ID# 33-03746

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated parcel consists of the lands currently held by the Roddis family that have been historically associated with the house. The parcels include the lot on which the house sits, as well as the flower and vegetable gardens, fruit trees and grape arbors that have been historically associated with the property. These plots continue to be cultivated and provide both flowers and produce for the Roddis house.

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine, House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

Photo 1 of 16
Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine, House
Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin
Photo by Pat Lacey
Photo taken July 2007
Negative on file at the Wisconsin Historical Society
Front façade
View looking southeast

The information for the following photos is the same as the above, except as noted.

Photo 2 of 16 Projecting entry bay View looking southeast

Photo 3 of 16 View looking south

Photo 4 of 16 Porte-cochere wing View looking southeast

Photo 5 of 16 Columns of Porte-cochere View looking south

Photo 6 of 16 Sun porch wing View looking northwest

Photo 7 of 16 View looking northeast

Photo 8 of 16 View looking east

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Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine, House Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

Photo 9 of 16 View looking east

Photo 10 of 16 View looking northwest

Photo 11 of 16 Dining room View looking southeast

Photo 12 of 16 Coffered ceiling dining room View looking southwest

Photo 13 of 16 Coffered ceiling living room View looking northwest

Photo 14 of 16 Built-In library View looking northwest

Photo 15 of 16 Built-In upper hall View looking west

Photo 16 of 16 Non-contributing garage View looking southeast

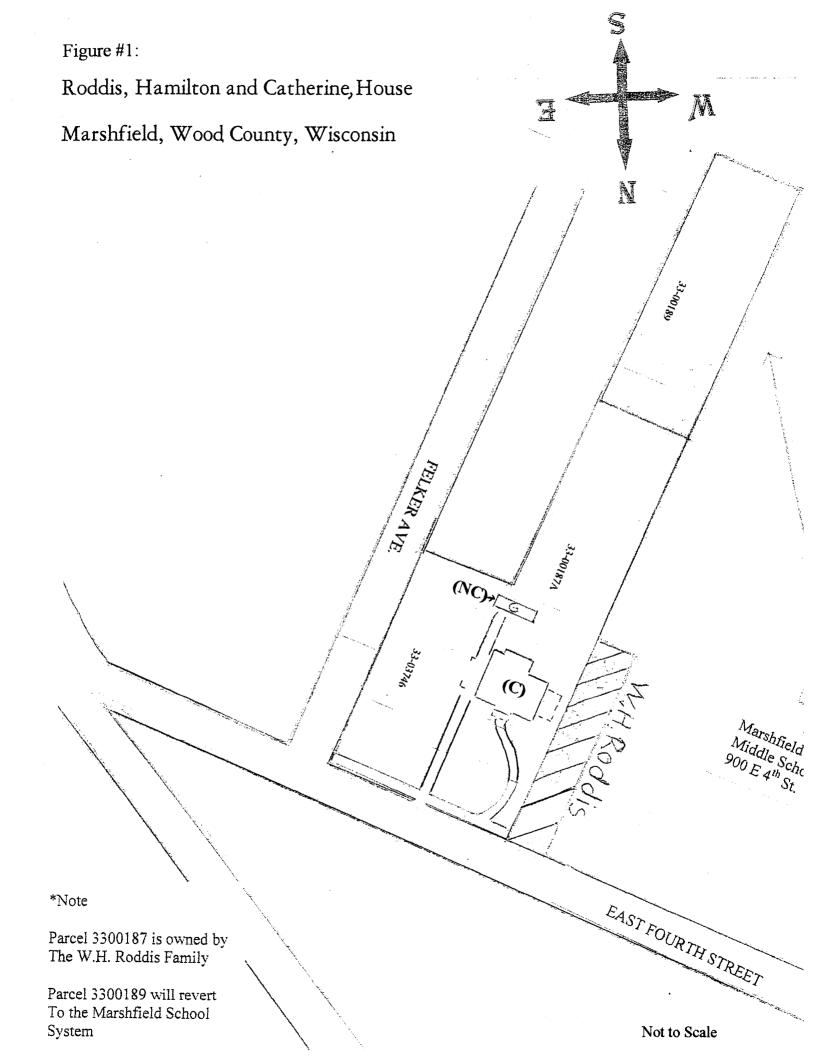


Figure #2:

Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine, House

Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

FIRST FLOOR

PORTE-COCHERE

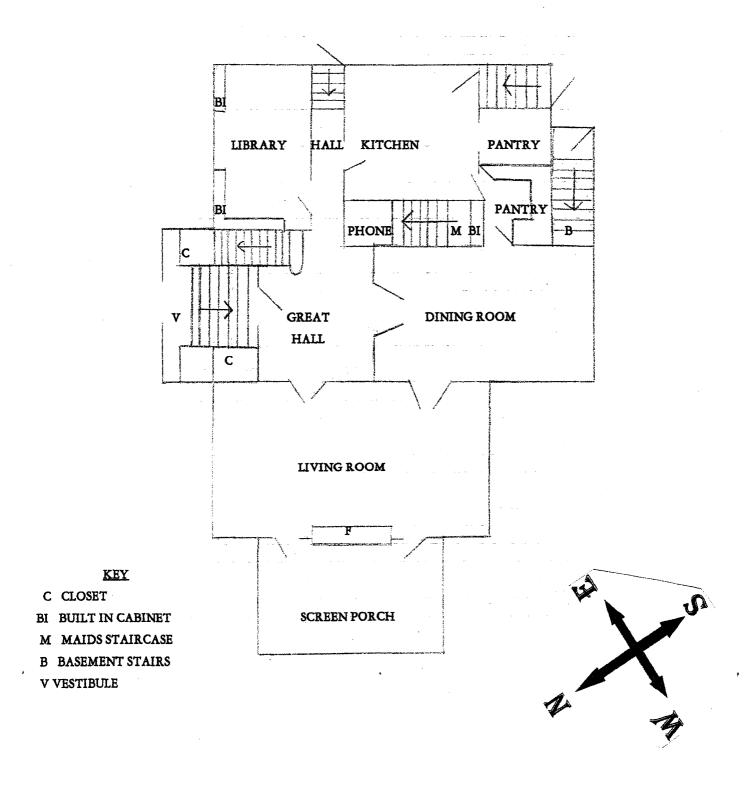


Figure #3:

Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine, House

Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

SECOND FLOOR

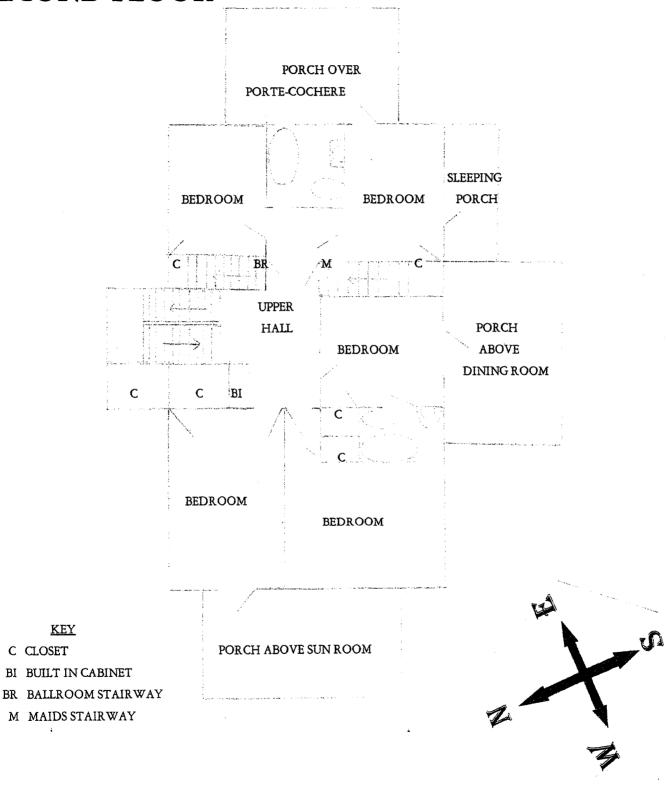
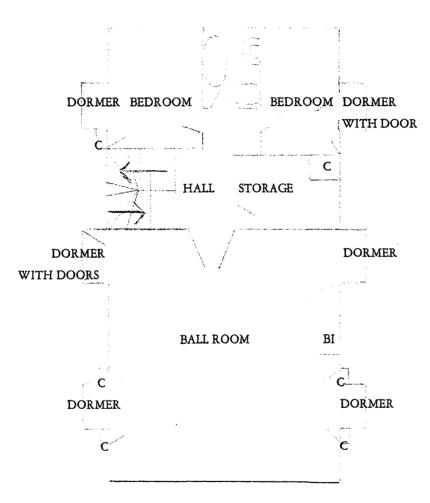


Figure #4:

Roddis, Hamilton and Catherine, House

Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

THIRD FLOOR



KEY

C CLOSET

BI BUILT IN CABINET

